

REMARKS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 3-13 stating that the specification fails to provide support or antecedent basis for the term “protrusion” as recited in claim 1. Support for this term can be found in the specification at paragraph [0025] which explains that the hydraulic labyrinth lip seal (22, 36) is “made up of three annular axial grooves and projections that intermesh.” A person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the term “protrusions” as synonymous with “projections.” Additionally, Figures 2, 6, and 9 show a portion of the hydraulic labyrinth lip seal (22) having three axial protrusions, and another portion (36) having three axial grooves.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

The Action rejected claims 1 and 3-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement with respect to the claim limitation “a lid (10) with protrusions and a seal to engage and be

hermetically sealed to the laboratory test vessel.” As discussed above, the claimed “protrusions” are part of the hydraulic labyrinth lip seal, and are described at paragraph [0025] of the specification. Additionally, paragraph [0026] of the specification describes how the hydraulic labyrinth lip seal is part of the lid and “hermetically seals material 71 inside laboratory test vessel 70 from the surrounding environment.” Figure 9 shows how the lid (10) includes the hydraulic labyrinth lip seal (22, 36) having the claimed protrusions.

The Action rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement, stating that the specification fails to describe the claimed protrusions in combination with a “snap closure.” Support for this limitation can be found at paragraphs [0023] and [0024] of the specification, which describes the lid (10) as a “snap cap.”

The Action further rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 8 has been canceled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

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Application No.: 10/526,647

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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